

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for detecting a collision, in which the collision is detected as a function of at least one signal (P, T), which represents an adiabatic change of state, and the at least one signal (P, T) is subjected to a first comparison with at least a first threshold, wherein the at least one signal (B, T) is subjected to a low pass filtration (201, 9) before the first comparison, and the collision is detected as a function of the first comparison and at least a second comparison of a variable, derived from the at least one signal, with at least one second threshold, and the first comparison is used to adjust the sensitivity of the method, in that the at least one second comparison is performed only after an amount of the first threshold is exceeded.
2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the first and/or the second threshold is/are adapted over the course of time.
3. The method as recited in Claim 1 or 2, wherein is used as the at least one large time derivative of the at least one signal (P, T).
4. The method as recited in Claim 3, wherein the second comparison is performed for checking a product from the first and second time derivative.
5. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the method is used to detect a lateral collision.
6. The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the first threshold is varied as a function of a frontal collision.
7. The method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 5, wherein the at least one second threshold is first raised and then lowered again.
8. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein as a function of the detection of the collision, a deployment decision for restraint means is made using at least one plausibility signal.

9. Use of a control unit in a method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 7.